



DUFFERIN SCHOOL COMMUNITY REPORT



Vision

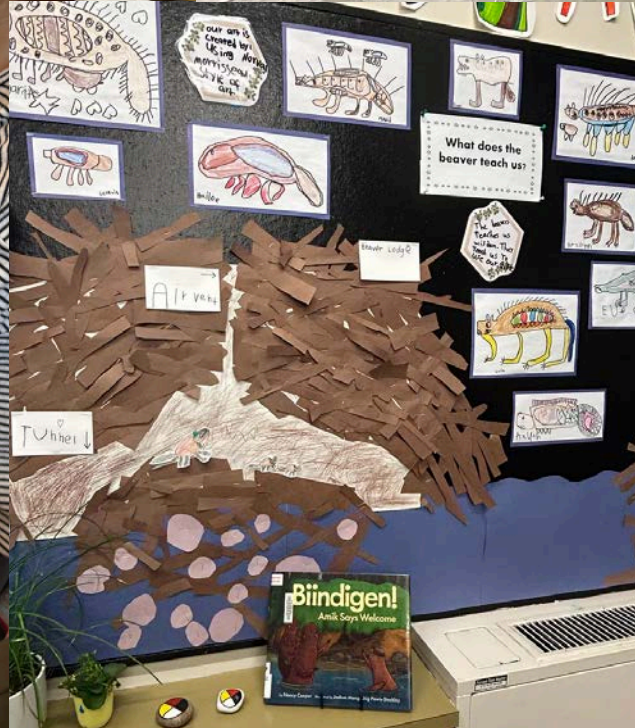
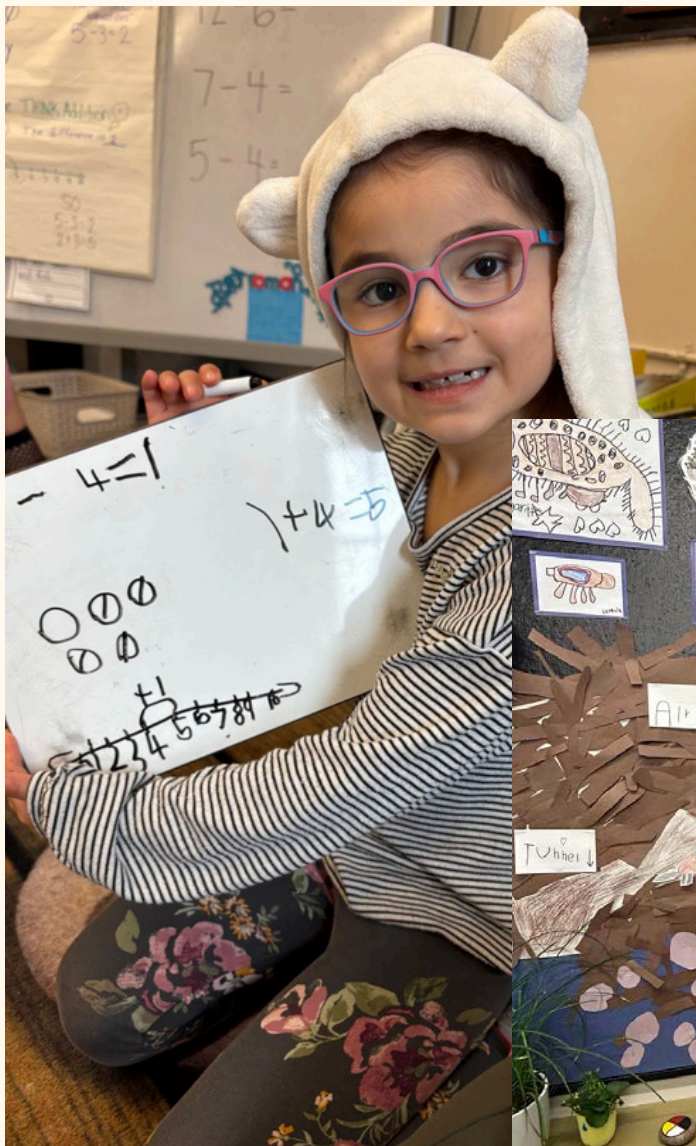
A community that nurtures the pursuit of The Good Life.

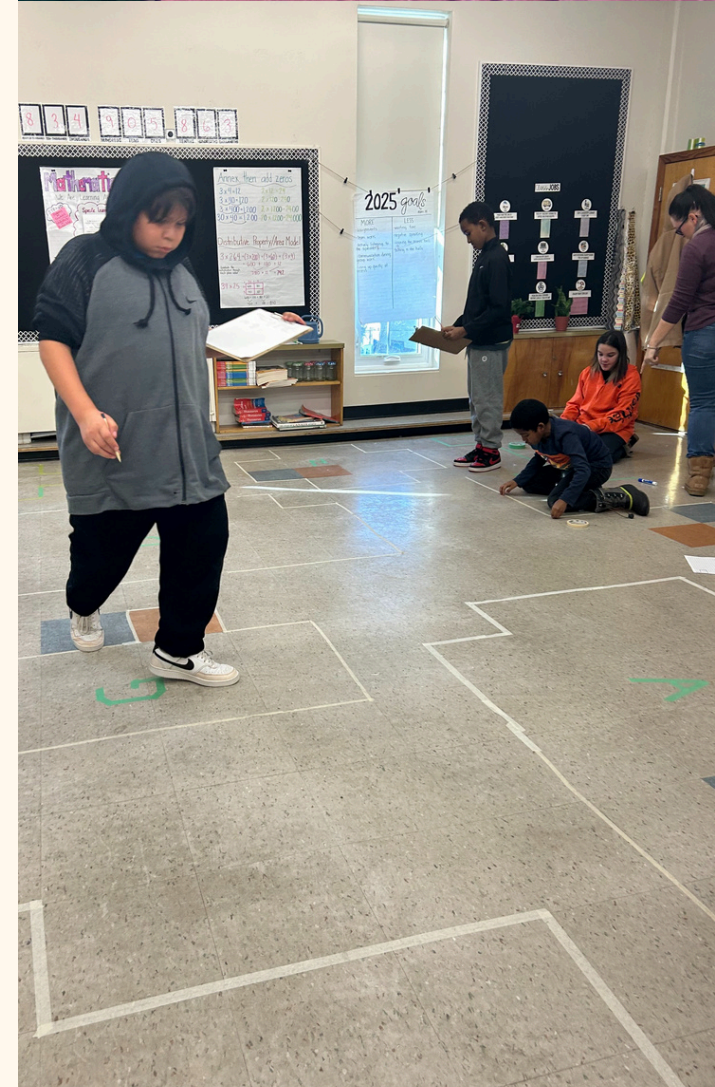
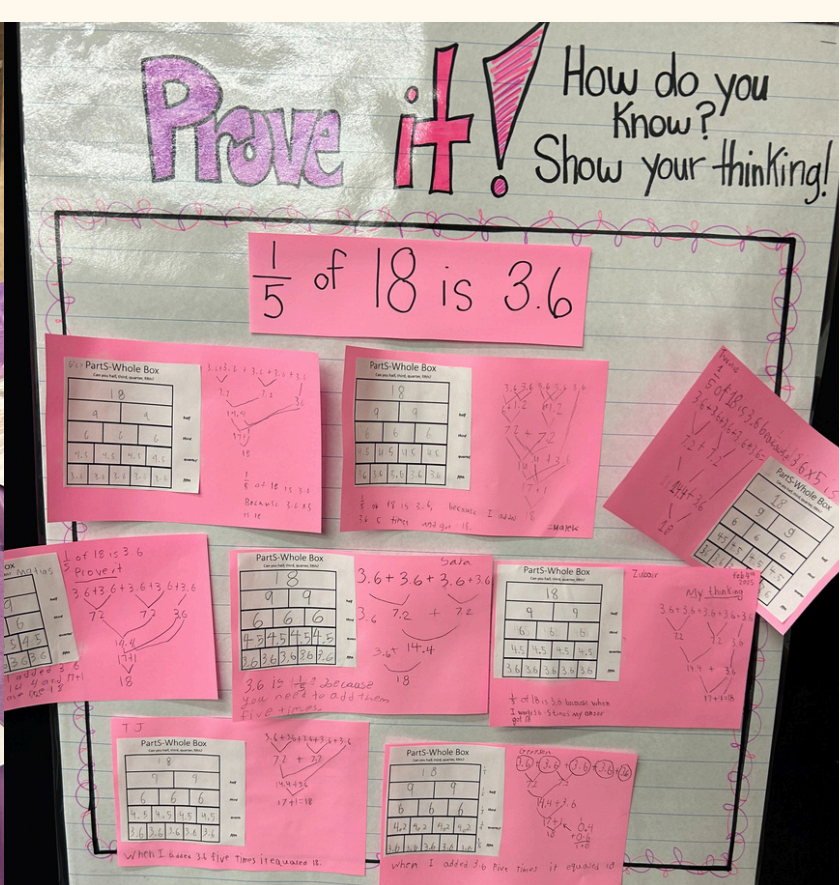
Mission

At Dufferin school, our mission is to cultivate a nurturing environment and a holistic education that puts the learners at the center. Through a commitment to truth and reconciliation, we strive to honor and learn from diverse cultures, histories, stories and perspectives. We are dedicated to providing rigorous learning experiences that value our learners and celebrate their unique identity and contributions, igniting a passion for learning and resiliency that extends far beyond the classroom in their pursuit of The Good Life.

Academics

We value high quality education, productive struggle, and learning from our mistakes; we commit to resourcing our students with opportunities to develop their creativity, critical thinking and skills in collaboration to prepare them to respond to our ever-changing world.





Traditional Teachings

We value understanding, respecting, and learning the truth from Indigenous cultures and histories; we commit to reconciliation through facilitating holistic educational experiences, learning from and on the land through experience, learning from and with one another in community, beginning with curiosity and wonder from within.





Nature-based Learning



We value Student Health/Wellbeing, Environmental Literacy and Commitment to Reconciliation.

Nature-Based Learning at Dufferin School has taken children out of the classrooms and onto the land throughout Mother Earth's seasons. This year we observed many natural changes, we went on focused learning walks, we collected natural materials, we offered tobacco, we built structures, we recorded a play, we explored puddles, we slid on ice, we caught snowflakes on our tongues, we went tobogganing, we built bird feeders, we mapped our neighborhood greenspaces, we landscaped our courtyard, we gathered around fires to tell stories, we roasted hotdogs, we practiced two eyed seeing in this natural world, and we were grateful.



Physical Education





We value Physical Education and sports. Sport plays a crucial role in holistic education by nurturing both physical and mental well-being, promoting social development, and instilling important life skills that contribute to a healthy and active lifestyle.

Music





Extra-Curricular Activities



We value growing in understanding of the interconnectedness of all people, our stories, and the natural world. Our students, educators, and families work together to create a supportive learning environment.





We value students taking ownership of their learning journey by having agency to express themselves, share their ideas, and participate in decision making processes to develop their unique talents and strengths and become confident, self directed learners.

Field Trips





Community



We value diversity in all its forms, and foster an inclusive community where every individual feels a sense of belonging and acceptance.



Early Childhood Language Centre



Primary Language Centre



Little Red Spirit



Kindergarten





Grade 6



What we focused on this year...

Building Flexible Thinking in Math

In math, we have placed a strong emphasis on developing flexible thinking—the ability to approach problems and concepts in multiple ways, take risks, and think critically. Through math talks, hands-on tasks, and continued practice, students are learning that there is more than one path to a solution and have gained a deeper understanding of math concepts.

Teachers have used strategies like, number strings, visual models, number lines, parts whole boxes and collaborative group work to promote reasoning and communication. Mistakes are celebrated as part of the learning process, helping students build resilience and deeper understanding.

Putting Students at the Center: Learning Through Inquiry, Curiosity, and Community

At Dufferin, we are proud to center our learning around students' questions, interests, and natural curiosity. Through an inquiry-based approach, we encourage children to be active participants in their own learning, developing the critical thinking, creativity, and confidence they need to thrive. Inquiry-based learning allows students to:

- Ask meaningful questions and investigate real-world problems
- Explore topics that matter to them
- Work collaboratively with peers to make sense of their ideas
- Share their learning in authentic ways—with classmates, families, and the wider community
- This year, we've seen powerful learning unfold both inside and outside the classroom. Whether it's exploring local ecosystems, visiting community spaces, or connecting with local experts and Elders, our students are learning that the community is an extension of the classroom.

Sense of Belonging

Fostering Belonging Through Family Groups and School-Wide Events

This year at Dufferin, our focus on belonging has guided everything we do. We know that when students feel connected—to each other, to adults, and to the school community—they are more confident, motivated, and ready to learn.

One of the most meaningful ways we nurtured this sense of connection was through our Family Groups. These cross-grade groups brought students together from Kindergarten through Grade 6 to build relationships, share learning, and celebrate school spirit. Family Groups met regularly for activities that included buddy reading, art projects, and acts of kindness—helping students form bonds beyond their immediate classrooms and grade levels.

In addition to Family Groups, our school-wide events played a key role in uniting our community. Events like our Winter Celebration, Spirit of the Land, Earth Day, Outdoor Learning Day, Traditional Games field day allowed us to come together with shared purpose, joy, and pride. These moments strengthened relationships between students, staff, and families—and created lasting memories.